

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

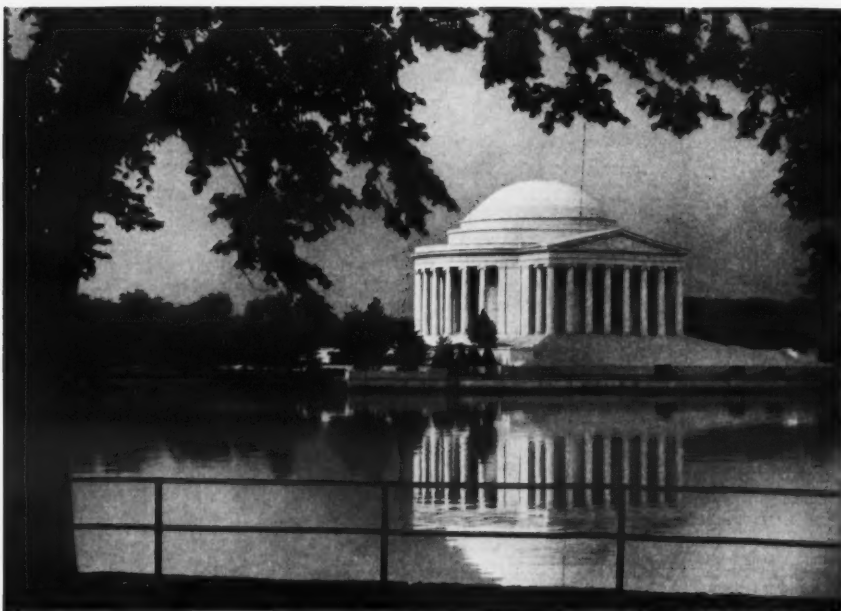
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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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Contents for Week of April 12, 1943. Vol. XXII. No. 8.

1. Whose Side Are the Chotts On?
 2. Costa Rica, Where "Little Landers" Prosper
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 5. Geo-Graphic Brevities
-



National Park Service

A NEW DOME ON THE CAPITAL SCENE REFLECTS THE DIGNITY OF JEFFERSON

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HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic School Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Entered as second-class matter, Jan. 27, 1922, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Feb. 9, 1922. Copyright 1943, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.

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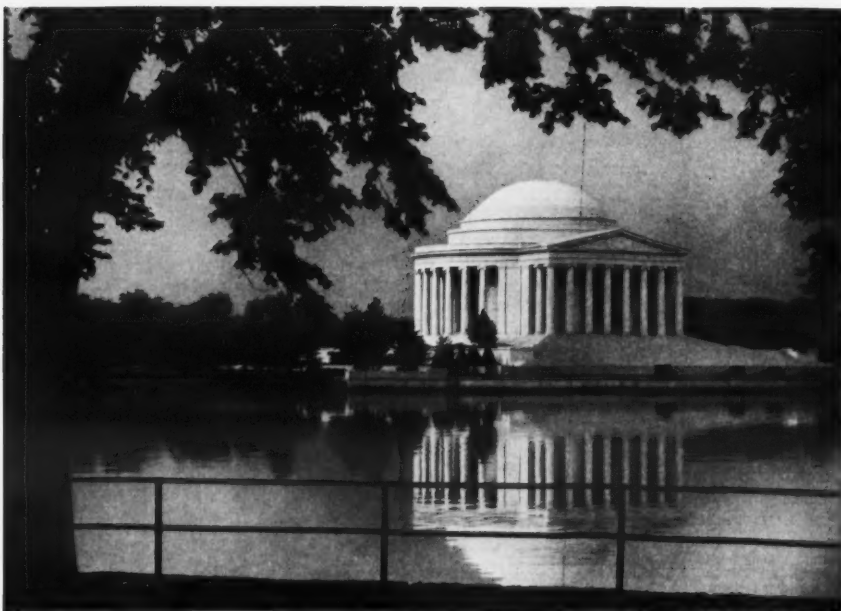
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Whose Side Are the Chotts On?

EVER since southern Tunisia became a battlefield, news dispatches from desert and oasis have been peppered with *chotts*. Is that abrupt little word a clue to good news or bad news? Friend or foe? It looks like "shot" but is pronounced like "shut." What is it?

A *chott* is a shallow salty desert lake addicted to absenteeism. It works on a full 24-hour shift from December to March and then goes off on a vacation for the rest of the year.

A string of *chotts* of assorted sizes sweeps across North Africa, at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, in a broken 700-mile arc through Algeria and Tunisia to the back door of Gabès on the coast. Algeria's Chott ech Chergui, southeast of Tlemcen, is a many-armed lake 80 to 100 miles long. Historic Chott Melrir, south of Biskra, is nearly twice as long. Chott el-Hodna, Chott el Rharsa, and others complete the salty festoon eastward to Chott Djerid, one of the largest, near Gabès. Beside these ancient salt-and-sand lakes the Carthaginians hunted war elephants and the Romans built marble bathhouses.

Quicksand when Wet, Quick Surface when Dry

A less known cluster of *chotts* lies to the southwest in mid-Sahara, shut in for miles by the sand dunes of El Djouf. The dried beds are the basis for the salt works of Taoudenni, source of salt for Sudan commerce.

When wet, a *chott* is a sheet of water disguising a layer of the gummiest mud in which an automobile axle could hope to bog down. North Africa tells stories of whole caravans buried alive in a *chott*. On foot, donkey, or camel, in jeep or tank, wayfarers steer clear of it.

When dry, the salty quagmire becomes a speedway. After all the water has evaporated the bare lake bed is revealed as a dazzling white expanse of hard salt, like the Bonneville Salt Flats of Utah on which most of the current automobile speed records have been made. Beneath a whirling tire the surface crackles crisply, giving superb traction and virtually eliminating the danger of skidding at even the highest speeds. Mirages hover in the glare of the glinting crust. Veils of powder-fine salt whip across it on every breeze.

Cairns Mark Trail across Salt Speedway

Chott Djerid, easternmost of these here-today-gone-tomorrow inland seas, stretches across southern Tunisia to within 20 miles of the coast. This marshy barrier created an effective bottleneck through which Nazi forces had to withdraw from their positions in the Mareth Line.

From April to December the usual highway route from Tozeur to Gabès shortcuts over Chott Djerid, from Kris to Kebili. Low cairns mark the trail across the dry salt sea, otherwise desolate and without landmarks. But in winter when salt-heavy water fills in the *chott*, the trip necessitates a long detour northward through Gafsa. Even in summer a two-hour downpour may dissolve the hard Djerid surface into a virtual sea of quicksand. Two days later, however, the sun will have again baked the bed into a glinting white crust.

Although Chott Djerid can be made a truck and tank speedway for summer, there is a handicap that limits its usefulness. Sand dunes and rock hills make a rough rim through which vehicles flounder to the salt-packed straightaway.

Bulletin No. 1, April 12, 1943 (over).

NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA



FROM SLIM COSTA RICA'S ROOF RIDGE BOTH OCEANS MAY BE SEEN

The "Rich Coast" republic is rarely more than 100 miles wide except in the north. From the mountains observers can see both Atlantic and Pacific on clear days. Seamen on either ocean can see the fiery top of Irazú, the volcano whose quakings are blamed for twice destroying Cartago, Costa Rica's second-largest city. The coast-to-coast railway links the chief ports and the capital (Bulletin No. 2).

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Costa Rica, Where "Little Landers" Prosper

(This is the seventeenth of a series of bulletins, with maps and illustrations, on the republics of Latin America.)

COSTA RICA is predominantly a country of "little landers." Although there are big United States-owned banana plantations on the Caribbean coast and some large estates on the Pacific side, most Costa Ricans are small-scale farmers living in the valleys and on the plateaus of the central region.

The nation which Columbus named Costa Rica ("Rich Coast") has had a record of hard work and individual effort since its conquest by Europeans. Spanish colonists, settling in the more healthful highlands back from the steaming tropical shores, found there neither great mineral wealth to enrich them nor a large native population to serve in labor battalions.

Faced with a choice of work, starvation, or flight, the colonists abandoned the idea of hacienda, or plantation, life, such as flourished elsewhere in Latin America. They tilled their own soil and, taking advantage of the excellent pasture, introduced cattle that were forerunners of the modern dairy and livestock industry.

Three-Quarters of People Concentrated in Central Highlands

Today Costa Rica still has its centers of political and economic life in the upland regions of perennial spring, where some three-quarters of the republic's more than 650,000 people are concentrated. Many live in the old Spanish city of Cartago (founded in 1564) and the modern capital, San José, near by.

San José, with about 76,000 people, lies nearly 4,000 feet high in a beautiful volcano-framed valley, almost in the geographic center of the nation.

The people of the central highlands form one of the most densely settled rural groups on the American mainland, although the population density of Costa Rica as a whole is only about 30 for each square mile. Because most of the hostile Indians were wiped out during Spain's early struggles for possession, or died from disease and overwork, modern Costa Ricans are largely of pure Spanish stock. Only along the coasts are other racial strains noticeable, in the mixture of Indian and Spanish blood on the Pacific side, and in the Negro element—once brought in for labor on the fruit plantations—on the Caribbean side.

On the Caribbean shore is Costa Rica's leading port, Puerto Limón. There, in July, 1942, a ship was sunk by enemy submarine, making this Central American republic the first to feel the direct impact of war at home. Because its Congress met early in the morning of December 8, 1941, Costa Rica even outpaced the United States in declaring war on Japan.

First Central American Republic to Make Coffee the Leading Crop

For its area—about 23,000 square miles, a little less than that of West Virginia—Costa Rica is a land of extraordinary physical variety. Its spectacular volcanic peaks reach above 12,000 feet. Temperate tablelands and valleys provide fertile soil for farming and succulent grasses for cattle grazing. On the coastal plains are found heavy rain forests, as well as broad plantations of bananas and other tropical fruits, coconuts, cacao, and sugar cane.

While the Costa Rican "good earth" yields many crops, including subsistence foods such as corn, beans, rice, and potatoes, the fertile volcanic soil is especially

Bulletin No. 2, April 12, 1943 (over).

Non-Spilling Desert Lakes Pile Up Salt

The *chotts* are dead-end lakes, with nowhere to go but up—in evaporation. Their basins have no outlet, some of them being 50 or 100 feet below sea level. In an earlier period, scientists believe, the Sahara was less parched, with broad rivers rolling through green valleys into these locked-in lakes. Ages of evaporation have left the vanished water's mineral content deposited in layers of salt. The shrunken *wadis* and diminished rains of the present era are barely enough to revive these dying lakes for a few months each year.

Deserts elsewhere in the world also have their salt lakes without outlet, such as the Great Salt Lake in Utah, mysteriously wandering Lop Nor of the Taklamakan Desert, and others in Central Asia (illustration, below). Most of these, however, because of different rainfall conditions, do not go through the regular yearly wet-and-dry cycle of Africa's *chotts* but dry up more gradually.

Note: The *chotts* of Tunisia may be found on the National Geographic Society's Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters in Washington, D. C.

For additional information about Tunisia, see these articles in the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Eastward from Gibraltar," January, 1943; and "Time's Footprints in Tunisian Sands," March, 1937*; and the following *GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS*: "Oddities of Tunisia," January 4, 1943; "Half-Desert, Half-Fertile Tunisia an Ancient Battlefield," and "Exploring French North Africa's Desert Reaches," December 7, 1942. (Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers at 10¢ a copy in groups of ten.)

Bulletin No. 1, April 12, 1943.



J. B. Shackelford

MOST DESERTS TAKE THEIR LAKES WITH A PINCH OF SALT

A desert is desert not only because it has so little moisture coming in, but also because it has practically none going out. The average desert is a giant bowl whose scant water seeps to the bottom of the basin and stagnates in a salt lake without outlet to the sea. Like Africa's *chotts* and Utah's Great Salt Lake, Central Asia's shallow desert lakes are salty (above). As the water evaporates (background), this lake in the Gobi Desert leaves a "beach" of salt that is lightly covered with blowing sand. The Mongolian tribesman can scoop up with his bare hands enough salt to load his camels for a trading expedition.

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Jefferson Memorial in War Capital Honors Fighting Civilian

G RIM rows of temporary office buildings, antiaircraft guns, and signs indicating air raid shelters are "what's new" on the Washington scene in almost every direction. But beside the sheltered waters of the Tidal Basin, within the pink circlet of blossoming cherry trees, rises a new non-belligerent edifice in honor of a foremost civilian who kindled a revolution with a Declaration of Independence but devoted himself to the arts of peace—Thomas Jefferson.

By his words as well as by its grave dignity, it memorializes the non-martial warrior who waged verbal battles for freedom of religion, freedom from slavery, freedom of the press, equality for women, and public schools. Five quotations are lettered in bronze on the marble walls, including that fightingest civilian's declaration of perpetual war on the home front: "I Have Sworn on the Altar of God Hostility Against Every Form of Tyranny Over the Mind of Man."

Jefferson's Bronze Has Gone to War

A change from the restful rectangles of the flat-topped Lincoln Memorial to the west, the new structure is a circular building, a version of the Pantheon at Rome which Jefferson himself admired and adopted as model for the Rotunda of the University of Virginia. A colonnade of 41-foot marble columns encloses it.

Open to Potomac breezes and sunlight on every side, the Memorial is principally an airy, circular domed chamber 80 feet across, 100 feet high. In it stands a 19-foot plaster model of a statue of the third President of the United States, the work of the American sculptor Rudolph Evans. Eventually the full-length statue will be cast in bronze, but now war needs claim all available bronze to defend the American people's "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" of which Jefferson was the avowed champion.

The north face of the Memorial has an impressive portico with 16 giant Ionic columns, each averaging 45 tons of marble. The classic portico was another of Jefferson's architectural delights, a feature of his Virginia home near Charlottesville—the gracious mansion at Monticello, which earned him the reputation of being "the first American who has consulted the fine arts to know how he should shelter himself from the weather" (illustration, next page).

Materials from Thirty States

The pediment of the portico bears a sculptured group showing Jefferson and the other members of a committee appointed in June, 1776, to draft a Declaration of Independence. They delegated the writing to him, and made few changes. His sculptured companions, true to history, are Benjamin Franklin and John Adams on the right, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingstone on the left. The pediment sculpture is the work of Adolph Alexander Weinman.

According to words inscribed within—" . . . institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. . . ."—Jefferson would approve of the dome. Classic in form, it is up-to-date in construction, with a shell of steel-reinforced concrete between the marble exterior and the ceiling of limestone blocks.

Thirty States were drawn upon for the materials which went into the monumental structure. Vermont supplied marble for the exterior and for the ranks of lordly columns. From Georgia came the blue-veined marble of the interior walls, and Tennessee sent the pink marble for the floors. The statue stands on a 6-foot

adapted to coffee growing.

Costa Rica was the first Central American state to raise coffee on a commercial scale. Recognizing the need of a paying industry, soon after achieving independence in 1821 the government offered settlers free land on which to raise coffee. Cart roads also were built to Pacific and Caribbean ports.

The coffee rush that followed resembled in many ways the great land booms of the expanding United States. Within a few years coffee had become the chief export crop of the nation, a position it still holds. In 1939 it made up more than 50 per cent of total exports. Costa Rica's export quota, under the Inter-American Coffee Agreement for 1940-41, was 442,000 bags; 200,000 were for the U. S.

Before the war, the second export commodity was bananas. Although their culture had been curtailed along the Caribbean coast because of blight and soil exhaustion, new developments had opened up on the Pacific. Cacao (of special interest as a commodity scarce in the United States since the war started) is the third commercial crop. Other exports include gold and tunny.

The United States is working with Costa Rica for variety in farm production as well as increased output of such strategic materials as abacá (Manila fiber) and rubber. The program also aims at more food exports to Panama, where United States troops in the Canal Zone have boosted the demand.

Bulletin No. 2, April 12, 1943.



Publishers' Photo Service

COSTA RICA'S INVITED IMMIGRANT BEAN NOW SUPPORTS THE COUNTRY

It was Costa Rica that introduced coffee-growing into Central American States. Now many of the country's mountain slopes, from 3,000 to 5,000 feet high, are covered with coffee plantations, where banana trees are planted between rows of coffee shrubs to furnish shade. The coffee berries are carried by oxcart to a near-by mill where red skin and pulp are crushed away and the beans are soaked in water to ferment. After the fermented "coffee honey" is washed off, the beans are spread to dry in the sun on cement platforms (above); they are regularly turned over with hoes to make the evaporation even. A week, or less, of drying leaves the bean ready to be stripped of its parchment-like skin, polished, and sacked for shipment.

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French Guiana Joins the United Nations

FRENCH Guiana, easternmost of the European-mothered triplets set in South America's north coast, has discarded allegiance to the Vichy government of France and aligned itself with the colonies fighting beside the United Nations.

More famous as a penal colony than as an economic unit of France, French Guiana has progressed more slowly, commercially and industrially, than her next door neighbor to the west—Surinam (Dutch Guiana)—or British Guiana, largest and westernmost of the tropical trio.

Cayenne, capital of the colony, stands on an island of the same name at the mouth of a similarly named river. Originally Guyane, from an Indian tribe, the name now applies also to a kind of pepper.

Cayenne's Population Varied and Transient

Cayenne has some 14,000 inhabitants, more or less. Definite estimates are difficult because the population includes, in addition to the permanent citizens, such shifting groups as miners and troops, and a penal settlement which was established there in 1854. Before the outbreak of war the latter had about 6,000 prisoners.

Since 1853, shortly after the California gold rush, gold mining by the placer method has been the most important industry of the colony. In normal times cacao, bananas, balata gum, hides, sugar, and coffee are other exports.

Much of the farm work is performed by prisoners under the supervision of land owners, many of whom are Bush Negroes. Although the colony has an area of some 34,740 square miles—slightly larger than Indiana—only about 9,000 acres are under cultivation. Farmers grow for home use such crops as Indian corn, cassava, and sweet potatoes.

Tropical Forests Still Hold Untouched Wealth

There is great and untouched wealth in the vast tropical forests—some of the densest in South America—which clothe the mountainsides. Lack of roads, as well as a dearth of workers able to stand the intense heat, has retarded the development of these natural resources.

Modern facilities of the colony include motor car service to the interior, a telegraph system, radio stations, and steamboat transportation between Cayenne and the ports of St. Georges and St. Laurent. Pan American Airways planes stop weekly at Cayenne.

Although it is the penal colony which has made the name of French Guiana familiar, the social exiles of France occupy only a fringe of coast and a few small outlying islands. Ile du Diable (Devil's Island), a tiny palm-dotted rock (illustration, next page) with a fortified enclosure for a few political prisoners serving life terms, rises about 100 feet out of the sea.

Less widely known are Devil's Island's two neighbors, St. Joseph and Ile Royale, but they are more forbidding to prisoners. On them, incorrigibles are confined in tiers of small, dark stone cells. The prison hospital and cemetery are located on St. Joseph. The group is about 30 miles from Cayenne.

Devil's Island's greatest publicity came from the notorious Dreyfus case in the 1890's. Convicted on a charge of treason, Alfred Dreyfus, a captain in the French Army, was sentenced to life exile on the island. He served more than four years of the sentence. Through the efforts of the author, Émile Zola, Mathieu

pedestal of polished black Minnesota granite.

Architects for the Jefferson Memorial were John Russell Pope and his associates Otto R. Eggers and Daniel Paul Higgins. After Mr. Pope's death in 1937, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission retained Eggers and Higgins to complete the final design and supervise the erection of the Memorial.

With the Tidal Basin lending the Memorial a reflecting surface of water on north and west, the setting of the white marble has been further beautified with trees of the type that grew around Monticello, such as holly and flowering dogwood. While 85 cherry trees had to be removed to make room for the Memorial, the new landscaping has added 219 to the Tidal Basin rim.

Note: For additional information about Thomas Jefferson, with pictures of Monticello, see "Jefferson's Little Mountain," in the *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1929.

For further information on Washington, see these articles in the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Washington, Storehouse of Knowledge," March, 1941; "The Nation's Capital by Night," April, 1940*; and "Wonders of the New Washington," April, 1935*.

Bulletin No. 3, April 12, 1943.



Edwin L. Witherd

"LONG TOM" TOOK THE LONG VIEW OF EDUCATION

Expressing his desire for "a system of public instruction which shall reach every description of our citizens, from the highest to the poorest," tall Tom Jefferson fathered the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, within sight of his Monticello home. After working out plans for the liberal curriculum, he drew up plans for the architecture, including the Rotunda as a variation on his favorite theme—the round, domed Roman Pantheon. At the age of 76, the retired President began five years of almost daily rides to supervise construction. When unable to go, he watched progress through a telescope, usually from Monticello's terrace. (This picture was posed at Monticello with the actual telescope.)

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Geo-Graphic Brevities

PALMYRA, ONCE ISLE WITHOUT A COUNTRY, NOW U. S. POSSESSION

PALMYRA in the central Pacific, after nearly 150 years of being an "isle without a country," has come to legal rest as an American possession. It adds 46 acres to U. S. territory. An unwanted child for years, it has been claimed at times not only by the United States and Great Britain on the grounds of discovery, but also by individuals.

Trans-Pacific air lines gave this tiny coral atoll immediate value as a possible base. It is now a U. S. Naval Air Station, an outpost for Pearl Harbor. When Navy inspectors first visited the island, they found that a Hawaiian family claimed it as part of the old Hawaiian Kingdom. But on February 1 the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that jurisdiction over the isle was vested in the United States by virtue of the 1898 annexation of Hawaii, of which Palmyra had then been a part. This ruling nullified any lingering claim Great Britain may have had. As late as 1925 maps and atlases generally showed Palmyra as a British possession.

Palmyra is 960 miles southwest of Hawaii. It really is a "family" of more than 50 islets circling three lagoons. The largest has a maximum "altitude" of only six feet. A barrier reef provides protection from the sea.

American whalers were the first to sight Palmyra. It is named for a ship that touched there in 1802. U. S. claim to the island issued from the fact that in 1859 the American Guano Company formally took possession. Guano being the main source of fertilizer in that day, the deposits on many pin-point isles south of Hawaii were diligently worked by Americans in the 19th century. This activity lapsed after the development of nitrates as fertilizer, and no one took any interest in Palmyra or its neighboring isles until trans-oceanic air transport became a reality.

* * * * *

FRENCH-LEASED KWANGCHOWAN CUT OFF FROM CHINA BY JAPS

KWANGCHOWAN, now cut off from the rest of China by the Japanese, is a small slice of France in the Orient. This rarely mentioned French headquarters in China is on the coast, 350 miles southwest of Hong Kong. Like the latter city, it is valuable as a port area, as it stands on the spacious bay at the mile-wide mouth of the Matshe River.

France obtained a 99-year lease from China, granting use of the bay and 325 square miles of adjoining land, after the Sino-Japanese war of 1894-5, when a grab-bag seizure of Chinese territory by European powers seemed likely.

Fort Bayard, capital of the territory, broke into the headlines ten years ago when Chinese residents faced the French governor with a diplomatic question by plastering the city with posters boycotting Japanese goods.

Kwangchowan trade was running close to \$10,000,000 a year before the outbreak of the current war. This was more than 6 per cent as much as the trade of all Indo-China, which has an area nearly 900 times greater. Kwangchowan has been a competitor of Haiphong, key port in French Indo-China farther west.

Most of the 250,000 inhabitants are Chinese. Normally the population included about 125 Frenchmen and perhaps 700 Annamese from French Indo-China.

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Dreyfus, the victim's brother, and officials at the Ministry of War, Dreyfus was finally exonerated and restored to his country's service. He reached the rank of lieutenant colonel in the first World War.

Guinea Pig Should Have Been Guiana Pig

After the fall of France in 1940, many prisoners escaped from the Guiana penal settlements. Some made their way in small boats up through the West Indies. One group landed on the island of St. Croix, in the American Virgin Islands, and eventually succeeded in reaching Canada, on the way to join the De Gaulle forces.

Guiana has been so little known that the region's name was once confused with Guinea on the African coast. In consequence, the small South American rodent was named the guinea pig by mistake.

Note: French Guiana is shown on the National Geographic Society's Map of South America.

See also the April, 1943, *National Geographic Magazine* for "Color Glows in the Guianas, French and Dutch."

For additional material, see these GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS: "French Guiana, Noted for Devil's Island, Now U. S. Neighbor," February 23, 1942; and "France-in-America Scattered over Wide Area," November 18, 1941.

Bulletin No. 4, April 12, 1943.



A. W. Stevens

THESE SAFETY ISLANDS ARE WHERE YOU WAIT—BUT NOT FOR STREET CARS

Ile du Diable (Devil's Island), smallest of three tiny islets once known as the Îles du Salut, inherited the name of the whole group when France decided to call them Îles du Salut (Safety Islands). White lines of surf breaking on its rocky shore (left background) and clusters of feathery palm trees give the island the deceptive appearance of a pleasure resort. Devil's Island is smallest in population as well as in size, being reserved for political prisoners. Usually only seven are held there. The larger island (foreground), St. Joseph, with hospital, stores, and administration buildings for the group, looks like a peaceful town, its penal grimness softened by waving palms and vivid green tropical vegetation. Ile Royale, where incorrigibles are kept, lies to the northwest of St. Joseph.

BOMBED ESSEX COUNTY HAS AMERICAN TIES

ENGLAND'S east coast Essex County, bombed by Germans in reprisal attacks, has strong historic ties with the United States. In Purleigh, 25 miles north-east of London, lived Lawrence Washington, father of the John Washington who sailed to Virginia in 1657 and became the great-grandfather of George Washington.

The Reverend Lawrence Washington later moved to near-by Maldon, where he died and was buried in the 14th-century All Saints Church.

Another Essex village linked with early American history is Cranham, where James Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia, was buried. Among settlements of New England named for Essex towns are Billerica, Braintree, and Dedham, Massachusetts.

Because of its nearness to the continent as well as to London, Essex has shared in England's historic struggles. It was invaded by Caesar's armies a half-century before Christ. It felt the heel of invading Saxons and became the East Saxon Kingdom (hence its name). The Danes took it over in the 9th century. Nowhere were the later Norman conquerors more thorough and ruthless.

Described in 1594 as "moste fatt, frutefull, and full of all profitable things," Essex is still one of England's most productive farming counties. About four-fifths of its 1,530 square miles are under cultivation. It supplies London with considerable vegetable produce. Its many industrial plants normally made goods ranging from munitions to silk, from beer to cement.

Bulletin No. 5, April 12, 1943.



Harold Donaldson Eberlein

ESSEX HAS HUNTS, NAMES, AND COMMUTERS IN COMMON WITH THE U. S.

Americans also ride to hounds in pink coats and top hats like those worn by Essex citizens congregating in Dunmow for a hunt. Dunmow's hotel is not the Saracen's Head Inn made famous by Dickens in *Nicholas Nickleby*, which was in London. Dunmow is nine miles along the road from Bishop's Stortford—birthplace of the Cecil Rhodes who established Rhodes Scholarships for foreign students—to the town of Braintree, which has a namesake in Massachusetts. An ancient custom of Dunmow, recently revived, offered a flitch of bacon to any couple who would solemnly swear that they did not regret their marriage a year and a day after their wedding. Within commuting distance of London, Essex is a "dormitory" county, many of its citizens working in the British capital and traveling homeward daily like New York City's commuters.

